

## PROBLEMS IN COLORS

WHITE IS COOL, YET ARCTIC ANIMALS AS A RULE ARE WHITE.

Why Are Land Birds Mostly Dark and Sea Birds, in Many Cases, White?—Why Have Nearly All Purple Blossoms Poisonous Properties?

In summer weather ladies, and men, too, when possible wear white. Why? To keep cool, of course, you will say.

If this be so, why, then, are almost all the creatures that live in arctic regions clothed in white? The usual reply is that the white color is for protective purposes—in order, in fact, to make them invisible to their enemies in the midst of the wastes of snow.

But, consider, again, is this reasonable? From whom does the polar bear need to hide? He has no enemies to fear. And as for the birds which assume a white plumage when they migrate north, surely they also have far fewer foes in the polar regions than when farther south.

Again, if white be a cool color this is surely another reason against the inhabitants of the coldest regions turning white at the approach of winter. It is easy to strengthen this argument. Visit the tropics, and you will find hardly any white animals or birds. In the very hottest regions of the globe not only is man, as a rule, black, but the birds and beasts are either very dark or else extremely brilliant in color. Of tropical birds the commonest colors run as follows: Brown, dark green and dark blue, emerald green, reds and yellows.

Speaking of the birds again, why is it that land birds are mostly dark hued while so many sea birds are white?

Here is another color puzzle. Almost all song birds are somber in hue, while the brightly colored species, such as the jays, the parrots and birds of paradise, have naturally harsh voices.

The colors of flowers and leaves offer numbers of interesting problems. No one quite knows why the prevailing tint of early spring flowers is either white or yellow. Yellow, indeed, holds its own to some extent all through the summer, but the typical color of summer blooms is pink, while as the autumn advances richer crimsons and all the rich, glowing hues of dahlias and chrysanthemums are seen.

Horticulturists have produced poppies of pretty nearly every shade under the sun, and with many other flowers they seem able to alter the colors almost as they please. Yet the blue rose, the black tulip and the green carnation seem as far off as ever they were in spite of constant efforts to arrive at them. Nearly three centuries ago Dutch gardeners imagined themselves on the verge of inventing a black tulip.

The colors of the blossom of fruit trees are limited to white, pink, bright scarlet and purple. The reason no one knows. Nor is it clear why nearly all plants with purple blossoms have poisonous properties. The deadly nightshade is an instance which will be familiar to all country readers.

It used to be said and many still imagine that intensity of color depends upon intensity of light. The brilliancy of a tropical landscape seems in some measure to bear this out. But any amount of arguments may be deduced against it. Rubies, opals and other exquisitely colored gems are dug from the depths of the earth.

The rays of the sun have never touched them. The pulp of some fruits is more richly tinted than the outer rind, while the crimson blood of animals is hidden from the light. What could be more rich and magnificent in color than the wings of many moths? Yet these are all night flying creatures.

Speaking of moths, it seems odd that there is no blue moth. Very few show even a touch of spot of blue. The colorings of butterflies present many problems, for there seems no order or method in their hues and markings, and a strange point is the absolute difference in these points between species otherwise closely allied.

Why do autumn leaves turn yellow? Here is a question which is more easily answered than some that have already been suggested. The popular reply is, "The frost does it." "This is only partly correct. If a really hard frost were to happen early in autumn there would be no tints at all. All the leaves would turn brown at once. The really gorgeous colors are produced by a slow and gradual fall of temperature, of course, without too much wind or rain. The cold causes a chemical ferment, which attacks the color compounds in the cells of the leaf. It is those leaves which contain most sugar which fade most rapidly, and of which, consequently, the color becomes most rich and brilliant.

A question which is often asked is, "Why do lobsters, shrimps and certain other shellfish turn red when boiled?" It seems that the black coloring matter which colors the shell of the lobster during life is an iron compound. We know that iron rust is red. The effect of boiling is practically to turn this iron compound in the lobster shell to a highly oxidized rust.

The death of certain creatures for certain colors is strange. If a number of earthworms be placed in an oblong box, of which one half is covered with red and the other with blue glass, they will with one accord crawl away from the blue light and take refuge under the red glass. Many other higher creatures share the same dislike to blue rays.—Pearson's Weekly.

A Terrible Mistake. There are women who are smart and intelligent, yet they labor under the delusion that no man can tell them a lie and look them straight in the eye at the same time.—Manchester News.

Joe's recollection is no longer joy while sorrow's memory is sorrow still.—Byron.

## THE AGILE TIGER.

He is "Shod With Silence" and is as Quick as Lightning.

Most wild animals are specialists—that is to say, they are highly developed in one particular direction. The tiger is great as a stalker. His feet seem to be "shod with silence." R. H. Elliot, for many years a resident of India, cited an experience of one of his neighbors illustrative of this point. He had been much annoyed by tigers and at last tied a bullock out in a clearing and took up his own position in a tree to wait till the tiger should come after the bait. The ground was covered with dried leaves, which in hot weather are so brittle that even the walking of a bird over them can be heard for a good distance.

In no very long time a large tiger slipped out of the forest and slowly edged toward the bullock. His method was so elaborate and careful that the man who saw it used to declare that it would have been worth 1,000 rupees to any young sportsman to have witnessed it.

So carefully did he put down each paw and so gradually did he crush the leaves under it that not a sound was to be heard. Between him and the bullock was a stump about four feet high, with long projecting surface roots. This, plainly, the tiger looked upon as a godsend.

He got upon one of the roots, balanced himself carefully and so was able to walk quickly and silently as far as the stump. He approached so gradually and noiselessly and his color against the brown leaves was so feeble that he was close upon the bullock before he was perceived.

Then instantly the bullock charged. The tiger eluded him and in a moment found his paws on the bullock's neck ready to drag him down. Then, like a flash, he caught sight of the rope by which the bullock was tied and turned and sprang into the forest, all so quickly that the man in the tree had no opportunity to fire.

## SIZE OF A THUNDERBOLT.

Geologists Have a System by Which Such Measures Are Taken.

"Did you ever see the diameter of a lightning flash measured?" asked a geologist. "Well, here is the case which once inclosed a flash of lightning, fitted it exactly, so that you can see how big it was. This is called a 'fulgurite,' or 'lightning hole,' and the material it is made of is glass."

"When a bolt of lightning strikes a bed of sand it plunges downward into the sand for a distance less or greater, transforming simultaneously into glass the silica in the material through which it passes. Thus by its great heat it forms a glass tube of precisely its own size."

"Now and then such a tube, known as a fulgurite, is found and dug up. Fulgurites have been followed into the sand by excavations for nearly thirty feet. They vary in diameter from the size of a quill to three inches or more, according to the 'bore' of the flash. But fulgurites are not produced alone in sand. They are found also in solid rock, though very naturally of slight depth, and frequently existing as thin, glassy coverings on the surface."

"Such fulgurites occur in astonishing abundance on the summit of Little Ararat, in Armenia. The rock is so soft and porous that blocks a foot long can be obtained, perforated in all directions by little tubes filled with bottle green glass formed from the fused rock."

"Some wonderful fulgurites were found by Humboldt on the high Nevada de Toluca, in Mexico. Masses of the rock were covered with a thin layer of green glass. Its peculiar shimmer in the sun led Humboldt to ascend the precipitous peak at the risk of his life."

## It Won For Sardou.

It is a singular fact that the famous French dramatist Sardou owed his first success on the boards to his excellent handwriting. He had sent in his often rejected play, "Le Taverne des Etudiants," to the Odéon management for consideration, and the manuscript was thrown, with some others, upon a table. One day at rehearsal the charming actress Mlle. Berengere was attracted by the handwriting and took up the manuscript, crying, "Oh, what an exquisite hand! They were indeed to read it, and then accept it. At the time Sardou was starring. He had gone through seven long years of terrible hardship and privation."

## Hops In England.

The English were taught the uses of hops by a native artist, who introduced them into England in 1524. They met with some hostility, for physicians represented them as unwholesome, and parliament was petitioned against them as a "wicked weed." In 1528 their use was prohibited under severe penalties. Henry VIII. appears to have been prejudiced against hops, for in a manuscript, dated Eltham, January, 1530, occurs an injunction to his brewer "not to put hops or brimstone" into the ale.


## The Living.

Sis—Why did you throw up your situation, Ernest? Brother—Because I am going to get married. Sis—But what will you live on—love? Brother—Oh, no! We are going to live on my love's father.

## In Danger.

Gregson (in alarm): Great Scott, I've left my pocketbook under my pillow! Fisher—Oh, well, your servant is honest, isn't she? Gregson—That's just it. She'll take it to my wife.

What we call despair is often only the painful eagerness of unmet hope.—George Eliot.



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STATE OF ROSETTA BROMLEY.  
I, the undersigned, Clerk of the County of Essex, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the will of the said deceased, as the same appears from the records of said County.

Witness my hand and the seal of said County, at Essex, this 27th day of January, 1906.

EDWIN WESTLAKE,  
Clerk of the County of Essex.

Present claims to Edward G. Galt, Prudential Building, Newark, N. J. Proceed for Laminator.

## HEADLESS, YET ALIVE.

Insects That Continue to Exist After Decapitation.

Most persons of an observing turn of mind are aware of the fact that there are several species of insects that will continue to live without seeming inconvenience for some time after decapitation, exact knowledge on the length of time which the various species of insects would survive such mutilation being somewhat vague.

Professor Conestral once undertook a series of experiments with a view of determining that and other facts in relation to the wonderful vitality of such creatures. In each case the head was smoothly removed with a pair of thin bladed forceps, and when spontaneous movements of the wings and legs ceased he employed sundry irritating devices, such as pricking, squeezing and blowing tobacco smoke over the insect. As a result of these experiments he ascertained that members of the beetle family at once showed signs of suffering, while such as ants, bees, wasps, etc., remained for hours unaffected.

Some which seemed stunned from the effects of the operation recovered after a time and continued to live and enjoy a headless existence for several days. Butterflies and moths seemed but little affected by the mutilating process, and the common flies (diptera) appeared to regard the operation as a huge joke.

"The common house fly," said the experimenter, "appeared to be in full possession of his senses (rather paradoxical, when in all probability the canary had swallowed head, sense and all thirty-six hours after being operated upon."

The bodies of some species of butterflies survived as long as eighteen days after the head had been removed, but the head itself seldom showed signs of life longer than six hours after decapitation. In the general summary of these huge experiments we are informed that the last signs of life were manifested either in the middle or last pair of legs and that the myriopods showed great tenacity of life "and appeared wholly indifferent to the loss of their heads."

## A FAMOUS MONSTER.

An Old Time Wonder That Had an Eye in Its Knee.

In the writings of both Lictus and Zahn may be found descriptions and illustrations of a monster born at Ravenna, Italy, in the year 1511 or 1512, the exact date being somewhat uncertain.

This monster had a body and shoulders like those of a young woman. There was but one leg, gradually tapering from the hips down and terminating in an immense scaled claw, like that of a turkey buzzard. There were four toes, each tipped with a bony nail, three of them pointing to the left and one to the right. The creature had wings in place of arms and always held them in an erect position. As though ready to take flight at the slightest provocation. From the hips to the knee the flesh was covered with large, well arranged feathers. From the knee joint to the foot the leg was scaled, like that of the common barnyard fowl, the spot where the feathers left off and the scales commenced being marked with a large lidless eye, which seemed to be altogether incapable of voluntary motion. The neck, head and general outlines of the face were those of a woman, but the ears were large and set very low, almost on the neck.

The head was covered with a queer mixture of scales, feathers and hair, but the oddity of the whole "upper story" was a pointed horn, which rose just in the edge of the hair on the center of the forehead. This horn was three inches in length, and, according to Zahn, "even a farmer would have mistaken it for the horn of a two-year-old heifer had it been removed and shown to him."

The old time wonder mongers all give pictures and descriptions of this "born Italian monster," but none tells how long it lived or what was done with the body after death.

## The Changing Tides.

The most approved theory among scientists as to the cause of the rise and fall of the tide is that the moon is the dominating cause through its differential attraction upon the opposite sides of the earth, drawing the nearer water away from the earth under the moon and in like manner drawing the earth away from the opposite waters for the production of high water small. The smaller tidal effect of the sun's attraction becomes noticeable mainly as modifying the lunar tide, increasing it in the spring tides and decreasing it at neaps and further modifying it in the priming and lugging of the tides.

## Dead Warning.

Oliver Wendell Holmes recorded his protest against the custom of telling a person who does not actually ask to know that he cannot recover. As that loving observer of mankind asserted, so must every one who knows who he speaks, assert that people almost always open to understand that recovery is impossible. It is rarely painful to tell any one that this is the case. When nature gives the warning death appears to be as little feared as sleep.

## An Evil Communication.

Teacher—Evil communications corrupt good manners. Now, Johnny, can you understand what that means? Johnny—Yes'm. For instance, pa got a communication from ma's dressmaker this morning and it made him use bad language.

Misfortunes are mortal bitters which frequently restore the healthy tone to the mind after it has been cloyed and stricken by prosperity.

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# IGNITO

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